

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

UNCLAS STATE 170459

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TSPA:

SUBJECT:LANDSAT COVERAGE OF SIERRA LEONE

REF: FREETOWN 909

1. REGRET DELAY. DETAILED RESEARCH OF NASA FUTURE PLANS FOR ACQUISITION OF LANDSAT DATA WAS NECESSARY.

2. AS NOTED REFTTEL, MONTHLY LANDSAT COVERAGE OF SIERRA LEONE WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED USING THE ON-BOARD SPACE-CRAFT TAPE RECORDERS. THE FULL COMMITMENT OF THE TAPE RECORDERS ON THE LANDSAT-2 SATELLITE AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING THESE RECORDERS HAVE RESTRICTED THE SCOPE OF DATA ACQUISITION BY THIS MODE. IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY THAT NASA WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SIERRA LEONE WITH THE REQUESTED COVERAGE DURING THE NEXT YEAR.

3. HOWEVER, SOME IMAGERY OF SIERRA LEONE WAS ACQUIRED BY LANDSAT-1 DURING 1972-74 AND MAY BE PURCHASED FOR A NOMINAL FEE FROM THE EROS DATA CENTER; SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57198. IN ADDITION, LANDSAT-2 COVERAGE OF SIERRA LEONE UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS OBTAINED DURING MARCH AND APRIL OF THIS YEAR IN SUPPORT OF A FAO INVESTIGATION, AND THESE DATA MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM THE EROS DATA CENTER IN SIOUX FALLS.

4. NASA UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FRENCH SPACE AGENCY, CENTRE

NATIONAL D'ETUDES SPATIALES, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONVERTING AN EXISTING TRACKING STATION IN OUAGADOUGOU INTO A LANDSAT RECEIVING FACILITY. SUCH A STATION WOULD PROVIDE REAL TIME LANDSAT COVERAGE OF AREAS WITHIN 3,000 KM OF OUAGADOUGOU. ESTABLISHMENT OF A LANDSAT GROUND STATION IN THIS RANGE IS SIERRA LEONE'S BEST HOPE IN THE FUTURE, SINCE REAL-TIME ACQUISITION OF IMAGERY IS FREE OF MANY OF THE UNCERTAINTIES THAT AFFECT THE TAPE RECORDER MODE OF OBTAINING DATA.

5. FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, NASA IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A THIRD REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE, TO BE KNOWN AS LANDSAT-C, IN LATE 1977 OR EARLY 1978. THE GOSL MAY THEREFORE WISH TO SUPPORT A PROPOSAL BY AN INVESTIGATOR FROM SIERRA LEONE INVOLVING THE USE OF LANDSAT-C DATA FOR THE REFERENCED LAND AND WATER RESOURCES SURVEY OR FUTURE PROJECTS. SHOULD SUCH A PROPOSAL BE SELECTED, NASA WOULD UNDERTAKE TO OBTAIN DATA OF THE INVESTIGATOR'S EXPERIMENT SITE. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH AN INVESTIGATION WILL MOST LIKELY BE DISTRIBUTED IN LATE 1976 OR EARLY 1977, NASA COULD AT THAT TIME SEND COPIES OF THE PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT TO THOSE MINISTRIES DESIGNATED BY THE EMBASSY. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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